

# News

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**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**Dallas, TX 75202**

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Dallas/Kansas City Regional Office  
Jerome Watters  
Regional Economist  
(214) 767-6970  
<http://stats.bls.gov/ro6news.htm>

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## **JUNE 2000 CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR ENERGY, SHELTER, AND FOOD AT HOME DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

Energy costs in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area increased 13.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in June, while food at home prices declined 0.5 percent and shelter costs remained unchanged, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Bob Gaddie, Regional Commissioner for the Bureau, noted that because these data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the Consumer Price Index.

The index for energy rose 13.1 percent in June, primarily due to higher costs for natural gas and electricity. The June advance follows a 2.6-percent decline registered in May. Natural gas costs jumped 38.0 percent during June, the largest one-month increase in the index since September 1982, when it gained 40.3 percent. Electricity costs move up 19.5 percent in the current month, after rising only 0.3 percent for the first five months of the year. The introduction of summer rate schedules caused the seasonal increase in electricity. Over the last 12 months, electricity prices advanced 15.4 percent while natural gas prices ascended 50.6 percent. The 12-month increase in natural gas prices was the largest since October 1982 (up 53.5 percent). Also contributing to the increase in the energy index were higher prices for gasoline. The gasoline index registered a 4.9-percent rise in June, following 2.0 percent decline the previous month. The average price for a gallon of gasoline in the Dallas-Fort Worth area stood at \$1.562 in June. Over the year, the index for gasoline climbed 39.8 percent and the overall energy index advanced 29.7 percent.

Grocery prices declined 0.5 percent over the month, after rising 2.4 percent in May. Lower prices for selected meats, some types of fresh fruits, potatoes, and coffee, more than offset higher prices for citrus fruits, frozen fruits and vegetables, and juices. The food at home index (CPI-U, 1982-84=100) for Dallas-Fort Worth stood at 156.0 in June, 2.7 percent above a year ago. This means that a typical basket of grocery items priced at \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost area consumers \$156.00 in June 2000.

Dallas-Fort Worth Energy, Shelter, and Food At Home CPIs – June 2000 (Continued)

The shelter index was unchanged in June, following a 0.3-percent rise the previous month. A decrease in the index for owner's equivalent rent of a primary residence (homeowners' costs) offset an increase in rent of a primary residence (renters' costs). Since June 1999, owners' costs advanced 3.3 percent while renters' costs moved up 3.8 percent. The overall shelter index climbed 3.3 percent over the past 12 months.